

Statement of Purpose (SOP) Writing Guidelines

Purpose

The Statement of Purpose (SOP) is a required application document that helps the Admissions Committee understand your motivation for graduate study, research interests, reasons for choosing the Aqualogy Graduate Program, and future goals. It should clearly explain why you wish to join the Aqualogy Graduate Program and how your previous experiences, interests, and aspirations align with the program.

The SOP is not intended to be a detailed research proposal. Rather, it should present a clear and coherent account of how your experiences have shaped your interests and aspirations, what questions you hope to explore in graduate study, and how the Aqualogy Graduate Program will help you develop as a future researcher or professional.

General Requirements

- Language: English
- Length: Approximately 800 to 1,200 words (2 to 3 pages)
- File format: PDF
- Font: A clear readable font (e.g., Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman, 11 to 12 pt)
- Line spacing: 1.5

Important: The SOP should be written specifically for your application to the Aqualogy Graduate Program and should reflect your own experiences, thinking, and goals.

Recommended Structure

1. Motivation for Graduate Study

Explain why you wish to pursue graduate study and what has motivated your academic and research interests. You may address questions such as:

- What scientific, technological, environmental, or societal issues have motivated your interests?
- Why do you want to pursue advanced study and research at this stage?
- What experiences have influenced your decision to continue to graduate study?

2. Research Interests

Describe the research areas and scientific questions that you would like to explore during graduate study. Please explain:

- What research fields or topics interest you
- What scientific or societal questions you would like to address
- Why these questions are important
- How your previous background has led to these interests

Note: You are not required to submit a detailed research proposal or to define a final research topic at the time of application.

3. Why the Aqualogy Graduate Program?

Explain why you have chosen the Aqualogy Graduate Program and how its educational and research environment relates to your academic interests and future goals. Please be specific about what you hope to learn, explore, or achieve through the program. You may mention faculty members or research units whose research interests align with yours. However, applicants to the General Selection are not expected to have finalized their principal supervisor or research unit before admission.

4. Future Goals

Describe your longer-term academic, professional, or societal goals and explain how your experience in the Aqualogy Graduate Program will help you work toward those goals.

How the SOP Is Used in the Admissions Review

The Admissions Committee uses the SOP to understand the applicant's motivation, academic preparation, research potential, critical thinking, ability to communicate ideas clearly, alignment with the Aqualogy Graduate Program, and future vision. The SOP is considered together with the other application materials; no single element is evaluated in isolation.

Tips for Preparing a Strong SOP

A strong SOP should:

- Explain why, rather than simply describing what you have done.
- Use your own experiences and reflections to support your statements.
- Demonstrate intellectual curiosity and research motivation.
- Present a clear and logical narrative connecting your past experiences, current interests, and future goals.

- Clearly explain why the Aqualogy Graduate Program is appropriate for your development.
- Be written in your own words and accurately represent your experiences and intentions.

Avoid:

- Simply repeating your CV.
- Listing achievements without explaining their significance.
- Using generic statements that could apply to any university or graduate program.
- Exaggerating or misrepresenting your accomplishments.
- Presenting a detailed research proposal unless necessary to explain your research interests.
- Including confidential or unpublished information without appropriate permission.

Checklist Before Submission

- ☐ The SOP is written in English.
- ☐ The SOP is approximately 800 to 1,200 words.
- ☐ It clearly explains your motivation for graduate study.
- ☐ It clearly describes your research interests and the questions or challenges you would like to explore.
- ☐ It explains why you chose the Aqualogy Graduate Program and what you hope to achieve through the program.
- ☐ It outlines your future academic, professional, or societal goals.
- ☐ It is consistent with the information provided in your CV and other application materials.
- ☐ It has been carefully proofread